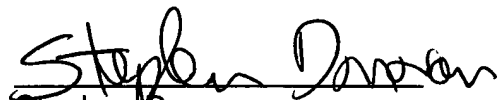


II. Conclusion

All issues raised by the Office Action have been addressed. Examination and allowance of pending claims 16-21 is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: January 7, 2005


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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date January 07, 2005 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label number EV193719850US addressed to Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Susan Bartholomew
Name of person mailing paper


Signature of person signing paper

Date: January 7, 2005